



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**

Walla Walla District
Public Affairs Office

News Release

News Release 06-XX

Date: Aug. 15, 2006

Contact: Public Affairs

Phone: (509) 527-7020

Enjoy safe Labor Day weekend fun at McNary sites on the Columbia River

UMATILLA, Ore. – The upcoming Labor Day holiday weekend is a great time to visit U.S. Army Corps of Engineers parks and recreation facilities on the Columbia River, operated by the Walla Walla District.

Outdoors enthusiasts can enjoy scenic river views while taking advantage of picnicking, camping, fishing, boating and swimming opportunities at McNary Lock and Dam recreation sites.

It's also a time to remember safety whenever playing in, on or near the water. Here are a few safety tips District park rangers hope visitors will remember while having fun at Corps lakes and recreation facilities: swim with a buddy, wear properly fitted, U.S. Coast Guard-approved life preservers, don't dive where you don't know what's under the surface, and don't consume intoxicants when operating recreational vessels. Boaters must ensure personal floatation devices are on board for each person – children 12 and younger are required to wear PFDs when in a boat. State boating, hunting and fishing regulations apply to visitors at Corps sites. Hunting on Corps property is allowed in designated areas only.

Corps recreation facilities attract many visitors and to make the experience a safe and happy one for everybody, a few rules apply, because safety is everyone's responsibility.

Some areas have local restrictions on open fires, so remember to check with park managers and rangers when visiting. Leave firearms and other weapons at home. Keep in mind that alcohol is not permitted on Corps properties in Washington. Corps park rangers, as well as local law enforcement officials, will be patrolling throughout the holiday weekend to assist visitors.

Recreation areas associated with McNary Lock and Dam on the Columbia River are listed as follows:

Contact information unless stated otherwise: McNary Natural Resources Management. Telephone: (541) 922-2268. Email: McNaryParks&Recreation@usace.army.mil.

Wildlife Nature Area – open year round, gates closed from sunset to sunrise between May 1 and September 30. Facilities: day-use, hiking trails, wildlife viewing, non-motorized boating, fishing. Getting there: travel 1.5 miles east of Umatilla, Oregon, on Highway 730, 1 mile north on McNary Dam Road, and 0.5 mile west on Third Street; located at Columbia River Mile 291, on the south riverbank.

McNary Lock and Dam – Oregon-shore publicly accessible areas open year round. Facilities: boat ramp, day-use areas, fish-ladder viewing room. Getting there: travel 1 mile east of Umatilla, Ore., on Highway 730, turn north onto McNary Dam Road; located at Columbia River Mile 292, on the south riverbank.

Pacific Salmon Visitor Information Center – open year round, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Facilities: restrooms, interpretive displays, juvenile fish facility viewing areas. Getting there: travel 1 mile east of Umatilla, Ore., on Highway 730, turn north onto McNary Dam Road; located at Columbia River Mile 292, on the south riverbank.

Spillway Park – open year round. Facilities: day-use, picnic shelters are available for reservation April 1 to Sept. 15. Getting there: travel 1 mile east of Umatilla, Ore., on Highway 730, turn north onto McNary Dam Road; located at Columbia River Mile 292, on the south riverbank.

-MORE-

Public Affairs Office, Walla Walla District Headquarters, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 201 N. Third Ave, Walla Walla, WA 99362-1876

Phone (509) 527-7020 FAX (509) 527-7824

Website: www.nww.usace.army.mil

E-mail: cenww-pa@usace.army.mil

McNary\2-2-2

Powerhouse Visitor Center – open year round. Facilities: interpretive displays, juvenile powerhouse viewing areas, restrooms. Visitors will not be allowed to bring the following items inside the powerhouse: backpacks, purses or bags of any sort (including diaper bags), cameras, cell phones and other electronic devices. All adults must carry photo identification with them at all times and will be required to wear a visitor pass that is easily visible while in the center. Getting there: travel 1 mile east of Umatilla, Ore., on Highway 730, turn north onto McNary Dam Road; located at Columbia River Mile 292, on the south riverbank.

West Park – open year round. Facilities: day-use; picnic shelters are available for reservation April 1 to Sept. 15. Getting there: travel 1 mile east of Umatilla, Ore., on Highway 730, turn north onto McNary Dam Road; located at Columbia River Mile 292, on the south riverbank.

Oregon Boat Launch – open year round, but boat docks are removed for maintenance after Thanksgiving and replaced in April . Facilities: boat ramp, day-use. Getting there: travel 1 mile east of Umatilla, Ore., on Highway 730, turn north onto McNary Dam Road; located at Columbia River Mile 292, on the south riverbank.

Washington Boat Launch – open year round. Facilities: day-use, boat ramp. Getting there: from Highway 82, take Exit-131, travel 2 miles east on dam access road; located at Columbia River Mile 292, on the north (Washington) riverbank.

McNary Beach – open year round, gates closed from sunset to sunrise between May 1 and September 30. Facilities: day-use, Picnic shelters are available for reservation April 1 to Sept. 15. Getting there: travel 3 miles east of Umatilla, Ore., on Highway 730, then 1 mile north on Port of Umatilla Road to McNary Beach Recreation Area entrance road; located at Columbia River Mile 293, on the south riverbank.

Warehouse Beach – open year round, gates closed from sunset to sunrise between May 1 and September 30. Facilities: day-use, swimming area. Getting there: travel 9.5 miles east of Umatilla, Ore., on Highway 730 to Highway 37, exit at Highway 37, and travel immediately north on the gravel road for 0.4 mile.

Sand Station – open year round during day light hours. Facilities: semi-primitive no-fee camping, day-use. Getting there: travel 10.5 miles east of Umatilla, Ore., on Highway 730. Follow highway signs; located at Columbia River Mile 300, on the south riverbank.

Make it a safe and happy holiday weekend for everybody. For more information about Walla Walla District's outdoor recreation opportunities, check out their Web site at: www.nww.usace.army.mil/corpsoutdoors/.